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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.



ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER  
OF HEALTH, 1937.



ANDREW HENDERSON, M.B., Ch.B.,  
Medical Officer.



## **Sandbach Urban District Council.**

### **MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT FOR 1937.**

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen.

I respectfully beg to submit my Report for the past year 1937.

#### **Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.**

Area in Acres...	...	...	...	...	...	3,699
Population of Census 1931 was 6,411, after 1/4/36 it became approx. ...	...	...	...	...	...	8,350
Registrar General's estimate of Resident Population, 1937	...	...	...	...	...	8,328
Number of Inhabited Houses at end of 1937	...	...	...	...	...	2,461
Rateable Value, 31/12/37	...	...	...	...	...	£36,833
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	£145

One third of the area is on sandy soil, the remainder on clay sub-soil.

The men find employment in Agriculture and at the following trades :—Chemical, Salt, Brush Making, Motor Body Building, Wire Manufacturing, Engineering, Central Heating and Paint Manufacturing.

The women find occupations at Paper Works, Silk Mills, Salt Packing, Artificial Silk Garment Making, Dairy and Domestic Service.

The Area has enjoyed a year of industrial prosperity and the unemployed figures are substantially decreased.

#### **Vital Statistics.**

				Total.	Male.	Female.
Live Births ... Legitimate ...	101	...	47	...	54	
... Illegitimate ...	1	...	—	...	1	
Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated population, 12.00.						

	Total.	Male.	Female.
Still Births, 1. All Legitimate	1	1	Nil.
Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) birth,	9.9.		

Deaths, 103.	Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population	12.00
Deaths from Maternity and Puerperal Causes	...	Nil.

Of the 103 deaths, there were :—

22	Senile Decay.
32	Cardiac.
2	Diabetes.
7	Cerebral Hæmorrhage.
12	Cancer.
10	Pneumonia.
3	Phthisis.
2	Influenza.
5	Kidney.

The remainder from different causes. 23 were transfer deaths.

Death-rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All Infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	20
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	20
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate births	...	...	...	Nil.
Deaths from Cancer, all ages	...	...	...	1
Deaths from Measles, all ages	...	...	...	Nil.
„ „ Whooping Cough, all ages	...	...	...	Nil.
Death from Diarrhœa under two years	...	...	...	Nil.
Children in all died under one year	...	...	...	2
1 Convulsion.				
1 Purpura.				

There has been no noteworthy prejudicial effect on health due to conditions of occupation or environment, and unemployment has not exercised any significant influence on the health or physique of children or adults.

There has been an epidemic of two non-notifiable illnesses during the year, namely : Chicken-pox and Whooping Cough. No adults were affected.

The health of the adult population, from the sick club records, was almost a record. Only one-third of the number of adults who drew benefit in 1936 drew benefit this year.

#### **General Provision of Health Services for the Area.**

Medical Officer of Health : Andrew Henderson, M.B.Ch.B.  
Sanitary and Building Inspector : George Allman, M.S.I.A.  
Cert. R.S.I.

Health Visiting Nurse : Nurse Owen, C.M.B.

Maternity Nurse : Nurse Harper, C.M.B.

„ „ Nurse Garnett, C.M.B.

„ „ Nurse Mitham, C.M.B.



### Laboratory Facilities.

The town pays for the examination of approved Pathological Specimens which may be sent to Chester or Manchester.

### Ambulance Facilities.

A St. John's Ambulance is available for non-infectious cases, and West Heath Sanatorium Ambulance for infectious cases and bedding.

### Nursing in the Home.

A service is provided for subscribers by the Local Nursing Association.

### Clinics and Treatment Centres.

Adequate and convenient Clinics are available for Tubercular, Orthopædic, Ante-natal, and V.D. cases.

### The Child Welfare Centre

is held at Marriott House every week. Nurse Owen is in charge, and she is assisted by the Ladies of the Town and the local Nurses. The local Doctors attend for one year alternatively, and Dr. Jean Shaw, of the County, inspects at intervals.

Attendances seen by Doctors	...	...	1507
„ not „ „ „	...	...	911
Total attendances	...	...	2418
Sessions held	...	...	51
Average attendance per Session	...	...	48
New Cases entered during 1937	...	...	96
Number of Children attending during year			228
Number under one year	...	...	55

No Baby Competition was held during the year, but a delightful Tea-party before X'mas was given by the Ladies.

Manchester Hospitals subscribed to by Town and Works admit freely all medical and surgical cases. Crewe, Winsford, and the Potteries Hospitals take a few selected surgical and medical cases. Arclid Infirmary, with 80 beds, belonging to the Cheshire County Council admits poor medical cases free and others at a reasonable cost. It also admits mental cases and accidents. It is being fitted up with operating theatre,

etc., etc., and is to be used as a base hospital in the event of air raids.

Maternity cases can have specialists, if necessary, at Manchester Maternity Hospitals, Longton Cottage Hospital, Sandbach Nursing Home, Arclid and Crewe Maternity Home. The County Council's appointed specialists, besides giving service at those centres, are available for consultation or active treatment in the patient's own home if necessary.

The Sandbach Nursing Home is fully equipped for surgical, medical, and maternity cases.

Infectious cases are removed to West Heath Sanatorium, Congleton. The removal is effected by Motor Ambulance, and they also disinfect bedding, etc.

A Small-pox Hospital, at Arclid, is kept in readiness and has ten beds.

### **Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.**

#### **Water.**

The first full year's working of the Mechanical Filters and Base Exchange Softeners has proved very satisfactory and a constant supply of water stabilized with about 5 degrees of hardness has been maintained.

The adoption of electrically controlled pumping plant is still under consideration by the Water Committee, and—pending the settlement of the question—some temporary duplication of the pumping plant is essential to cope with the maximum consumption during next summer. I understand arrangements to meet this emergency are well in hand.

The only extension of supply mains during 1937 was in Stringer Avenue for the Council's Housing Scheme.

60 Connections were made to the mains during the year, and from these 104 additional Dwelling-houses will be supplied.

#### **Drainage and Sewerage.**

A small amount of the Town's Sewage is treated at the Elworth Street Works. The main part is treated at the Hind Heath Works.

The effluent on analysis has proved satisfactory.

New short length of Sewers have been laid in Park Lane, Clifton Road, Elworth, and Mill Lane (off Crewe Road).

Closet Accommodation.

W.C.	Pail Closets.	Privy Closets.
2,360	26	87

Types of Refuse Receptacles.

Ashpits.	Moveable Ashbins.
78	2,395

Scavenging.

During the year under review every effort has been made to maintain a regular and efficient Refuse Collection Service. The disposal site has now been finally covered with earth and sown with grass seeds, a great improvement having resulted from the filling in on this field. A fresh site has been obtained on the boundary of the district, and it will also result in a great improvement to the wet low-lying land.

The work is done mostly by direct labour.

The contents of the few privy and pail closets are utilized as fertilizers in the neighbouring country side.

Removal of Refuse.

Pail Closets are emptied	...	...	...	Weekly
Privy Closets are emptied as required.				
Ashpits are emptied every 6 to 8 weeks or as required.				
Dust Bins are emptied weekly.				
Loads removed from Ashpits	...	...	...	97
(Motor) Loads removed from Dustbins			...	888
Cart			Trades Premises...	7
Pail and Privy Closets	...	...	...	272

**Sanitary Inspection of the Area.**

Legislation in Force.

List of Adoptive Acts and Bye-Laws of the Council.

*Sanitary Administration.*

Private Street Works Act, 1892 ... Adopted 11/6/1900.  
Part III of the Public Health Acts, Amendment Acts, 1890.  
Adopted 14/6/1897.



Part IV of the Public Health Act, Amendment Acts 1890.  
 Adopted 1/10/35.  
 Part II (Streets and Buildings) other than  
 Sections 23 and 26. } of the Public  
 Part III (Sanitary Provisions) } Health Acts  
 Part IV (Infectious Diseases) } Amendments Act  
 Part V (Common Lodging Houses) } 1907, Adopted  
 Part VI (Recreation Ground) } 9th July, 1932.  
 Part II (Sec. 30 and 31) Public Health Act, 1925.  
 Adopted 9/12/35.

#### Bye-Laws.

New Streets and Building	...	...	Adopted	1/2/1897
New Bye-Laws	...	...	„	16/6/24
Slaughter Houses	...	...	„	1/2/1897
Cleaning of Footways and Pavements			„	1/2/1897
Common Lodging Houses	...	...	„	1/2/1897
Nuisances	...	...	„	1/2/1897
Markets	...	...	„	1/12/1890
Number of Inspections during the year	...	...		1270
„ Statutory Notices served during the year				8
„ Informal	„	„	„	34
„ „ complied with	...			23
„ „ in hand	...	...		20

#### Action under Statutory Powers.

Of the Eighteen Statutory Notices served, it was necessary for the Local Authority to do the work in five cases, the owners did the work in five cases, and the remainder are having attention.

#### Premises and Occupations which can be controlled by Bye-Laws and Regulations.

There are no Underground Sleeping Rooms in the district.

The Lodging House is clean and well kept. No complaints have been received. The Water supply is adequate and the Sanitary conveniences are in a satisfactory condition.

There are 7 Bakehouses on the Register and a number of confectioners with businesses of limited size. 37 visits have been made to these premises during the year and they were found to be in a fairly satisfactory condition. One is at present unoccupied. One of the largest Bakehouses is now using oil in lieu of coke with advantage (it being cleaner).



### **Shops.**

Inspections have been made by the Sanitary Inspector and myself in certain cases.

The Sanitary Accommodation at one of the shops in High Street was unsatisfactory, the owner has now given instructions to remedy this defect.

### **Smoke Abatement.**

No complaint was received during the year.

### **Swimming Baths and Pools.**

Mr. Skeath, the Clerk, and I visited Mr. Walter Lea's Swimming Pool and were impressed with its possibilities.

### **Eradication of Bed-Bugs.**

No action necessary.

### **Arrangements for Disinfection.**

Infected bedding, clothing and other articles are sent to West Heath Sanatorium for steam disinfection. Premises are immediately disinfected, and printed instructions and disinfectants are issued to the persons in charge of the premises. 32 Inspections of such Houses have been made.

### **Schools.**

All the Schools have a good supply of water and are now effectively sewered.

The C. of E. School, Wheelock, has now been provided with Water Closets in lieu of the older type of convenience.

**The Clearance Scheme** has progressed satisfactorily.

### **Individual Unfit Houses.**

During the year an additional House was found to be unfit and a notice for its demolition has now been served making a total of 10 for the past two years.

(a) 13 and 15 Hawk Street.

(b) 12 Back Street.

(c) 4 Dingle Bank.

(d) Cottage, Hassall Road.

Have now been dealt with as follows—

(a) These two very small Houses have been made into one and will serve as a useful House for some considerable time.

(b) By agreement this property has been altered and some of the rooms added to the Houses on either side so as to be available for larger families.

(c) This House has been entirely reconstructed.

(d) This Cottage is now vacant and will not be used for human habitation.

## Re-Housing.

Proposals for Re-Housing have been made and approved by the Minister of Health. The Scheme provides for 32 houses, to be erected on the Hassall Road site, with accommodation for 212 persons. A number of the houses are now tenanted. The remainder will be occupied during the first quarter of 1938.

### Number of Houses Erected during the Year.

By Private Enterprise ... ..	70
By Local Authority ... ..	0
By Other Bodies or Persons ... ..	0

### 1. *Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year.*

(1) (a) Total Number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... .. 210

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 515

(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925... .. 27

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 27

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... .. Nil.  
Apart from Scheme.

(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of these referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... .. Nil.  
Apart from Scheme.

### 2.—*Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices :—*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ... .. 41

3. *Action under Statutory Powers during the Year :—*

(a)—Proceedings under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...	18
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners ... ..	5
(b) By local authority in default of owners	5
(c) In hand ... ..	8

(b)—Proceedings under Public Health Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... ..	Nil.
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By owners ... ..	Nil.
(b) By local authority in default of owners...	Nil.

(c)—Proceedings under Sections 19 and 21 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ..	1
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ..	Nil.

(d) Proceedings under Section 20 of the Housing Act, 1937.

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ..	Nil.
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... ..	Nil.

4. (a) Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year,	23
(b)    „       „ families dwelling therein ... ..	23
(c)    „       „ persons dwelling therein ... ..	166

### Canal Boats.

No complaints have been received. 2 Visits have been made, and the boats have been found to be clean and satisfactory, and all aboard were healthy.

### Work of Sanitary Inspector under Article XX.

The Sanitary Inspector makes monthly note of the defects and complaints to the Sanitary Committee. The owners are seen and every endeavour is made to have defects remedied without resort to legal proceedings.

### Inspection and Supervision of Food.

#### Milk Supply.

The sampling of Milk is now chiefly carried on direct from the farms by the County Veterinary Inspectors.

The District is well served as regards quantity, quality and standard of cleanliness.

The following grades of Milk are available :

Certified T/T.  
Pasturized.  
Sterilized.  
Accredited.  
Ordinary milk of no special grade.

The number of registered Cowkeepers, 37.

#### Dairies and Cow Sheds.

83 Visits have been made to the Dairy and Cow Sheds. and a higher standard is now being attained.

#### No. of Dairies and Purveyors.

Number of Dairies ... ..	Nil.
Number of Milk Retailers : Certified ...	2
Accredited ...	4
Pasturized ...	1
Sterilized ...	5
Not graded...	23
Total ... ..	<hr/> 35 <hr/>



## Meat and other Foods.

A regular inspection of the Slaughter Houses is carried out. Occasionally a few Pigs are killed by cottagers. When slaughter is necessary outside the regular slaughtering days three hours' notice must be given to the Inspector.

Meat found to be unfit for food :—

(a)	Bovines	Carcases.	...	...	13
		Forequarters	...	...	6
		Livers	...	...	—
		Lungs and Hearts...			7
		Heads	...	...	3
(b)	Pigs.	Heads	...	...	4
		Plucks	...	...	7
(c)	Sheep.	Livers	...	...	6
		Heart	...	...	1
(d)		1 Tin of Tongue.			

## Slaughter Houses.

The are two Registered and 7 Licensed Slaughter Houses.

Considerable improvements have taken place at the various Slaughter-places during the year. All are supplied with a constant supply of water and are kept clean.

## Tuberculosis Order, 1925.

During the year 9 animals were notified. Six of them were after slaughter found to be unfit for food and were destroyed.

## Adulteration, Etc.

This is in the hands of the County Council Officials who take samples for analysis.

## Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.

This is also in hands of the County Council Officials, who take samples at intervals, which are examined in the County Laboratories.

## Nutrition.

No special work has been done so far to disseminate knowledge on this subject, but the next report will show progress.

## Prevalence of and Control over Infectious and other Disease.

### Notifiable Diseases.

Exclusive of Tuberculosis of which there were 13 cases, (last year 7), 52 cases, (last year 31), of Infectious Diseases, were notified as follows :—

Disease.	Number.	Admitted to Hospital.		Died.
Scarlet Fever...	12	...	12	—
Pneumonia ...	15	...	—	10
Diphtheria ...	5	...	4	—
Erysipelas ...	8	...	—	—
Puerperal Fever ...	1	...	—	—
Opthalmia Neonatorium	3	...	2	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	...	1	—
Total ...	45	...	19	10

### Tuberculosis.

21 specimens of sputum were examined for Tuberculosis.  
2 were positive.

# Analysis of Notification under Age Groups.

Disease.	Under 1 year	1-2 years	2-3 years	3-4 years	4-5 years	5-10 years	10-15 years	15-20 years	20-35 years	35-45 years	45-65 years	65 & over	No.
Scarlet Fever ...	—	2	2	3	2	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	12
Diphtheria ...	—	—	1	1	1	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	5
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	3	1	8
Pneumonia ...	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	—	3	3	2	3	15
Acute Polio- myelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Opthalmia Neo- natorium	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Puerperal Fever...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Totals ...	3	2	3	4	4	1	7	1	6	5	5	4	45





There were 3 Gland Cases, 3 Skin Cases, 3 Lung Cases, 2 Bone Cases, and 2 Abdominal Cases.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.		
	Respiratory.	Non-Respiratory.	Respiratory.	Non-Respiratory.	Respiratory.	Non-Respiratory.	Respiratory.
Under 1	—	...	—	...	—	...	—
1— 5	—	...	4	...	—	...	—
5— 15	1	...	4	...	—	...	—
15— 25	1	...	—	...	1	...	—
25— 35	2	...	1	...	—	...	—
35— 45	—	...	1	...	—	...	—
45— 55	1	...	—	...	1	...	—
55— 65	—	...	—	...	1	...	—
65 upwards—	—	...	—	...	—	...	—

9 Samples of Sputum were sent to the Laboratory at Chester during the year and all proved negative.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the Medical Officer of Health, for the Year 1937, for the Urban District of Sandbach, on the Administration of the Factory and Workshops Act, 1901, in connection with

Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Premises.	Number of		
	Inspections.	Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted.
Factories, (including Factory Laundries ... ..)	20	...	...
Workshops (including Workshop Laundries) ... ..	22	...	...
Workplaces, (other than Out-Workers' Premises ... ..)	—	...	...
Total... ..	40	Nil.	Nil.

(Signed)

ANDREW HENDERSON, M.B., Ch.B.,  
Medical Officer of Health.





